of the Chamber, he received an unwelcome homily.[1] " My children, it is grievous to have lost one's country; but the regime which weighed so long on France could only leave disaster behind. I know you are for war. I tell you, who voted against the peace—France must not think of war. She must renounce Alsace. The tears rotted down our cheeks. The President took us by the hand and added, Do not believe the madmen who tell you the contrary, and who are the cause of our troubles being increased by a hopeless struggle. Resenting the reference to Gambetta we went away broken-hearted, as if an evil genius had taken from us the remainder of our courage. That day I took Grevy's measure. Since then I have only had official relations with him." Grevy, however, never ventured to say in public what he said in private, and no French Minister of the Third Republic ever dared to accept the Treaty of Frankfurt except under protest.

Bismarck had no illusions. When the French Charge, in his first interview in August, 1871, expressed his confidence that relations would improve, the Chancellor replied that he was glad to hear such language but could not believe that France sincerely desired peace. " I do not think you wish to break the truce now. You will pay the first two milliards, but in 1874, when the other three are due, you will fight us." " France/' added the Charge in reporting the conversation, " is recovering too quickly. He thought that he had finished with her for twenty years at least, and he is becoming alarmed."

When Gontaut-Biron took up his duties at Berlin early in 1872 he received a cordial welcome from the Emperor and Empress ; but the Chancellor, though at first polite, took no pains to hide his suspicion. The despatches of the first Am-

bassador of the Republic depict a relationship of tension and protests in which each party suspected the other of designs to renew the struggle.

Arnim's despatches from Paris were no less pessimistic. Thiers, he reported on May 6,1872, desired a long peace, since France was not in a position to wage a new war. Later, when she had recovered her strength, declared the President, she would naturally seek compensation for her losses; and if Germany were ever in difficulties with other Powers she would find her chance by bartering her aid if not by war. " There can be no doubt," wrote the Ambassador on October 3, 1872, " that of the 38 million Frenchmen not one hundred thousand

[1] *Souvenirs de Jetmesse,* 262-4.